

Office of Faith and
Community-Based Partnerships

Building Jobs and
Communities
with **Faith**



New Models for Action

Faith and community-based organizations have long assisted the poor, destitute, hungry, homeless and unemployed. They are unsung heroes who have tirelessly transformed thousands of lives with their compassion.

But it is only recently that government has come to realize the value of partnering with faith and community-based organizations in meeting the needs of those among us for whom the American dream of prosperity and economic independence still remains elusive.

Leading the way is the federal government. President Bush's Faith-Based and Community Initiative provides funding, through various

federal agencies, to underwrite state and local government partnerships with faith and community-based organizations.

The Government of the District of Columbia successfully competed for one of only 12 Faith-Based and Community Initiative grants available from the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL). The funding provided by USDOL will facilitate the establishment of an Office of Faith and Community-Based Partnerships (OFCBP) in the D.C. Department of Employment Services (DOES) to link faith and community-based organizations to the District's One-Stop Career Centers.



Partnerships at Work: The One-Stop Career Center System

There are nine One-Stop Career Centers located throughout the District and a Virtual One-Stop Career Center System available over the Internet (www.dcnetworks.org) where job seekers can receive:

- ★ A preliminary assessment of their skill levels, aptitudes, abilities and support service needs;
- ★ Information about and access to a wide array of job training, education and employment services;
- ★ Help filing claims for unemployment insurance benefits;
- ★ Career counseling;
- ★ Job search and job placement assistance; and
- ★ Up-to-date labor market information on job vacancies, in-demand occupations and local, regional and national employment trends.

The District's One-Stop Career Centers and Virtual One-Stop Career Center System (www.dcnetworks.org) also serve as points of contact for employers to find job-ready and skilled workers.

DOES' Office of Faith and Community-Based Partnerships (OFCBP) will link faith and community-based organizations (FBOs/CBOs) to the District's One-Stop Career Centers in a variety of ways which include, but are not limited to, the following:

- ★ Increasing the number of FBOs and CBOs that are certified to provide workforce development training and support services to One-Stop Career Center customers;
- ★ Showcasing FBOs and CBOs that are committed and active One-Stop Career Center partners;
- ★ Extending One-Stop Career Center services to the customers of FBOs and CBOs; and
- ★ Launching a Mobile One-Stop Career Center.

Expanding the participation of faith and community-based organizations in the District's One-Stop Career Centers will improve workforce development service delivery outcomes.

Faith & Community: A History of Service

The involvement of FBOs and CBOs in philanthropic and other community betterment activities in the District is historically well documented. Examples include the pre-Civil War Abolitionist Crusade and the founding of prestigious Howard University. The tradition continues today with many FBOs and CBOs targeting the District's more vulnerable residents, such as the new and burgeoning immigrant population, for receipt of essential services that will lead to their assimilation into the community.

There are more than 1,000 trusted and highly

respected faith and community-based organizations in the District that utilize scores of paid workers and volunteers to improve the lives of the needy. The diversity of these soldiers of compassion is evident. They are of different faiths, different socio-economic backgrounds, different political persuasions, and different races and ethnicities. But the common thread among them is their commitment to helping the less fortunate.

Of the aforementioned total, approximately 30 to 50 FBOs and CBOs have workforce development service delivery expertise. Among them are the following two stellar examples of the "good works" being performed by FBOs and CBOs in this field:

- ★ **Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C.** provides adult basic education (ABE) instruction, General Equivalency Diploma (GED) preparation, job counseling and job placement, and other related services to nearly 80,000 youth and adults annually.



Transforming lives w

★ The **All Faith Consortium**,

as a partner in DOES' Naylor Road One-Stop Career Center, provides information and referral, counseling (i.e., career development, substance abuse, domestic violence, etc.), skills training, and job placement services primarily to economically disadvantaged District residents.



**Priorities:
Office of Faith and Community-
Based Partnerships**

1. Strengthen relationships between faith and community-based organizations and the District's One-Stop Career Centers.
2. Dispatch the Mobile One-Stop Career Center to provide workforce development services to the District's geographically isolated and impoverished communities.
3. Dispatch the Mobile One-Stop Career Center to job sites to provide workforce development services to underemployed workers in need of skills upgrades.
4. Dispatch the Mobile One-Stop Career Center to job sites where workers have received "pink slips" and are about to be laid off.
5. Host a series of focus groups to elicit information from faith and community-based organizations on ways to improve workforce development service delivery at the District's One-Stop Career Centers.
6. Conduct informational sessions on the availability of public and private sector funding to expand the delivery of workforce development services in the District by faith and community-based organizations.

7. Establish and utilize a Faith-Based Advisory Council as:

- ★ A "sounding board" for issues related to the delivery of workforce development services by the District's One-Stop Career Centers; and
- ★ A source of feedback on the integration of faith and community-based organizations into the District's One-Stop Career Centers.

8. Connect jobseekers who are not appropriate for assistance from the District's One-Stop Career Centers to faith and community-based organizations for receipt of workforce development services.

Priorities: FBOs and CBOs

1. Commit more of their resources in support of District workforce development initiatives (e.g., job training, literacy instruction, etc.) under the premise that gainful employment and a stable income are essential to individual and family stability.
2. Provide instruction to their service users and congregation members on the use of the District's Internet job search and job placement system known as the "D.C. Networks Virtual One-Stop System."
3. Encourage their service users and congregation members to utilize the resources of the District's One-Stop Career Centers through a One-Stop Career Center partner, or by either visiting a One-Stop facility or going online.
4. Host informational sessions for their service users and congregation members on the availability of workforce development services through the District's One-Stop Career Centers and the "D.C. Networks Virtual One-Stop System."

5. Utilize their congregation members, especially those who are gainfully employed, as mentors for job seekers or sources of information about jobs and job placement opportunities, and volunteers for the District's One-Stop Career Centers.
6. Provide their service users and congregation members with transportation to and from the District's One-Stop Career Centers.
7. Coordinate with DOES' OFCBP in dispatching the Mobile One-Stop Career Center to faith and community-based sites (e.g., synagogues, churches, mosques, non-profit facilities, etc.) and other locations (e.g., places of employment, construction sites, street corners, etc.) to deliver workforce development services.
8. Provide workforce development services to jobseekers who have multiple employment barriers and because of stringent federal performance standards are not suitable for assistance through the District's One-Stop Career Centers.
9. Assist the D.C. Workforce Investment Council (WIC) in identifying workforce development needs and advocate for the utilization of DOES' limited workforce development resources to meet those needs.



**Driving Job
Resources to
Your Neighborhood!**

- ★ Skills assessments
- ★ Career counseling
- ★ Resume preparation
- ★ Online job searches
- ★ And more



ith compassion ★★

For Technical Assistance and Additional Information

To learn more about faith and community-based initiatives (particularly in the area of workforce development) and how you can help in their implementation, please contact:

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U.S. Department of Labor

Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

www.dol.gov/cfbci



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